

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please replace pending Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 with the amended Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6, and cancel Claims 3, 4, 7 and 8 as follows:

1. (Presently Amended) ~~An~~ can sealing apparatus comprising:

~~a can having a top portion having a pull tab attached to the top portion of the can;~~

~~wherein the pull tab is able to be used to create an opening in the top portion of the can;~~

~~wherein after the pull tab is used to create an opening in the top portion of the can, and while the opening is exposed, the pull tab is attached to the can;~~

~~further comprising~~

a cap base having an upper surface and an outer perimeter, said outer perimeter of said cap base dimensioned to facilitate insertion of said cap base into ~~for covering the~~ a flip-top can lid opening in the can comprising;

~~a depression; and~~

a cap top defined by a peripheral flange extending outwardly relative to said outer perimeter of said cap base, proximate a first end of said cap base, said peripheral flange defining a generally flat C-shaped member having a first end and a second end,

and by a flip-top can tab receiving port positioned proximate said first end of said cap base and proximate said outer perimeter of said cap base, said flip-top can tab receiving port defined in a non-flange region between said first end and said second end of said C-shaped member, ~~connected to the depression and at least partially surrounding the depression; and thereby facilitating placement of flip-top can tab receiving port of said can sealing apparatus proximate an opened flip-top can tab.~~

~~wherein the cap is separate from the pull tab so that the cap can be removed from the can without detaching the pull tab from the can.~~

2. (Presently Amended) The can sealing apparatus of claim 1 wherein

~~the can is a soda can; and~~

wherein said cap base further comprises an interior wall, said interior wall extending from said upper surface to said peripheral flange of said cap top, thereby defining a the depression is adapted to fit into the opening.

3. (Cancelled) ~~The apparatus of claim 1 wherein~~

~~there is a gap in the peripheral flange which allows the pull tab to fit over the depression.~~

4. (Cancelled) ~~The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising~~

~~an inner wall which connects the depression to the peripheral flange.~~

5. (Presently Amended) A method of sealing an opened pull-tab can, comprising the steps of:

A. obtaining an opened pull-tab can ~~pulling a pull tab attached to a top portion of a can to create an opening in the top portion of the can;~~

~~wherein the pull tab is pulled in such a manner that the pull tab remains attached to the top portion of the can after the pull tab creates the opening in the top portion of the can and while the opening is exposed;~~

B. obtaining a cap having a top and a bottom, said bottom having peripheral dimensions corresponding to the pull-tab can opening, said top being generally flat with peripheral dimensions greater than the pull-tab can opening, and said top having a notch defining an area at least slightly greater than the width of the can pull-tab;

C. positioning said cap with said notch of said top proximate the can pull-tab;

D. inserting said bottom of said cap into the pull-tab can opening, and

E. sealably covering the pull-tab can opening with a said cap; and

~~removing the cap from the opening without detaching the pull tab from the top portion of the can.~~

6. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein

~~the said cap is further compriseds of a depression and a peripheral flange, wherein the said depression defined in said top is connected to the peripheral flange, and the peripheral flange at least partially surrounds the depression; and~~

~~further comprising step C': wherein the step of covering the opening with the cap includes inserting the can pull-tab into said the depression into the opening.~~

7. (Cancelled) ~~The method of claim 6 wherein~~

~~there is a gap in the peripheral flange which allows the pull tab to fit over the depression.~~

8. (Cancelled) ~~The method of claim 6 wherein~~

~~the cap is comprised of an inner wall which connects the depression to the peripheral flange.~~